

CLAIMS

1. A key for unlocking a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus, comprising:
a first member;
at least one protrusion attached to said first member, said protrusion configured to unlock a locking-type toner hopper of an image forming apparatus;
wherein said key is not formed monolithically with a toner container.
2. The key according to claim 1, wherein said at least one projection includes at least two first projections configured to be received by, and unlock a lock of a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus.
3. The key according to claim 2, wherein said at least two first projections have a first spacing, and wherein said at least two projections are substantially rectangular, and have a width sufficient to allow said at least two projections to be received by two slots included on the lock of the hopper.
4. The key according to claim 2, wherein said at least two projections have a first spacing, and wherein said key further comprises at least two second projections having a second spacing, said second spacing larger than said first spacing.
5. The key according to claim 4, further comprising a first indicia corresponding to said first at least two projections; and
a second indicia corresponding to said at least two second projections.
6. The key according to claim 4, wherein said at least two first projections are provided on an opposite side of said first member from said at least two second projections.
7. The key according to claim 1, wherein said key includes a plurality of projections arranged to be received by and unlock, at least two different locking-type toner hoppers.

8. The toner refill kit for refilling a locking hopper of an image forming apparatus, said kit comprising the combination of:

a first container containing toner; and

a key having at least one projection configured to be received by and unlock a lock of a toner hopper of an image forming apparatus;

wherein said key is not monolithically formed with said first container.

9. The kit according to claim 8, further comprising a second container configured to store said key, said second container configured to engage with said first container.

10. The kit according to claim 8, wherein said at least one projection of said key comprises at least two projections configured to be received by a lock of a locking-type toner hopper of an image forming apparatus.